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SERVICE

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HOW TO BUTTER BREAD -- ONE-HANDED

Self-Help Gadgets For The Handicapped. Take a four-inch square of one-inch plywood, cover the top with formica, and nail four stainless steel nails in the corners. Press a slice of bread onto the nails and butter away. With the help of gadgets such as the bread holder, people with disabilities -- either short- or long-term -- can perform many routine homemaking and grooming tasks. A catalog of gadgets, tools, and clothing ideas to assist handicapped people to help themselves has recently been compiled by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service. The collection of items, many of which can be easily and cheaply made by a home handyman, include a "grabber" that enables a chairbound person to pick up things from the floor or from a shelf; kitchen aids to help peel, cut, and grate vegetables and to wash glasses using only one hand; an apron that can be put on with one hand; special handles to make it easier for arthritic fingers to grasp spoons, forks, toothbrushes, and pens. The illustrated catalog, with instructions on how to make many of the items, is available for 25 cents from Extension Publications, 318 Ricks Hall, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C. 27607.

BUSINESS IS BLOOMING

For Clippers, Trimmers, And Planters. If you can cure a sick maple, are good at climbing trees, know how to stomp out crab grass, or can plant a bulb and get a bloom, maybe you should consider horticultural service as a business. More and more people are hiring professionals to take over the chores of planning and maintaining their lawns and gardens. Horticultural services have grown into a sizable business in recent years with receipts for 14,000 firms totaling well over \$500 million in 1969. These services include the planning, planting and care of ornamentals, landscape planning and counseling, lawn and garden services, and shrub and tree services. Lawn and garden services involve the greatest number of firms while shrub and tree services gross the most money. Value and types of services vary widely by State but over half of the 1969 business was concentrated in only five States: Pennsylvania, New York, California, Ohio, and Florida. This information is from a recent report of USDA's Economic Research Service, "Horticultural Service Business: Dollar Volumes and State Rankings" (ERS-526). Single copies are free from the Office of Communication, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.



WHAT IS SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE

May Be Puree For The Gander. No matter how you slice it, tomato catsup, sauce, puree, and paste are all made from the pulp and juice of red ripe tomatoes. They are all concentrated -- cooked to remove water. But there are noticeable differences among the four and each one has its own thing to do. The differences come in the amount of water removed and in the spices used. Basically, the more water that is removed, the more concentrated the product and the more it costs per ounce -- but the less you need to use. Of the four, tomato catsup or ketchup is usually the most spicy. It is flavored with sugar, salt, vinegar, spices, and sometimes onion and garlic. It is probably the most popular considering the number of hamburgers, hot dogs, and french fries eaten with catsup. Tomato sauce is not as concentrated as catsup and has less sugar. It is a timesaver since it can be used directly from the can to make spaghetti and other sauces. The amounts of spices and seasonings used in tomato sauce varies and you may even find specially seasoned sauces for making spaghetti, chili, barbecue sauce, and pizza. Tomato puree has only salt added. It is a little thicker than tomato sauce and, unless the label says otherwise, can be used without adding water to make spaghetti and other sauces. Tomato paste is the thickest of the lot. Salt is usually the only seasoning added. It is too thick to use straight from the can, but adding water and some spices to tomato paste can produce some delicious tomato-based sauces.

CLOTHES MAY MAKE THE MAN

But Don't Ask Him What They're Made Of. A USDA report of a nationwide survey points up misunderstanding among men about fibers and permanent press finish in their dress shirts. This, of course, is hardly news to the wives and mothers who bought the shirts for almost half of the men interviewed. Men taking part in the survey were asked to show the interviewer a sample of the type of dress shirt he wore most often; about one in four described the fiber and finish features incorrectly. The survey also indicated some points to keep in mind when buying clothes for the men in your life. Most men said style and color usually mattered most to them in dress shirts, light-weight sport shirts, and slacks. But fiber ranked second to style in undershorts. Brand name was least important for all four items. In general, the men interviewed indicated 100 percent cotton fiber was more comfortable on the skin and absorbed moisture better than 100 percent synthetic fiber. For dress shirts, light-weight sport shirts, and slacks they gave highest marks to a blend of cotton and synthetic fiber with a permanent press finish. Copies of the USDA report, "Men's Attitudes Toward Cotton and Other Fibers in Selected Clothing Items," are available free from the Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

PICK AUTUMN BOUQUETS CAREFULLY

Don't Fall For Poison Ivy. That attractive bright red-orange vine would be lovely in a Fall arrangement. Be careful. If it has three leaves, it could be poison ivy.

SERVICE is a monthly newsletter of consumer interest. It is designed for those who report to the individual consumer rather than for mass distribution. For information about items in this issue, write: Lillie Vincent, Editor of SERVICE, Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone (202) 447-5437.
